

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, due to a prior commitment, I was unavoidably detained during the following rollcall votes. Had I been there, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 302; "no" on rollcall vote No. 303; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 304; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 305; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 306; and "no" on rollcall vote No. 307.

HECTOR G. GODINEZ POST OFFICE
BILL**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the House of Representatives to introduce a bill to rename the Santa Ana U.S. Postal Processing Center after a true American, Hector G. Godinez. Mr. Godinez gave so much to his country and community, and this bill will recognize his life long efforts.

Santa Ana has been Mr. Godinez' home since 1925. After graduating from high school he joined the military, beginning his service to our country. He served during World War II and in recognition of his strength and bravery in General Patton's tank unit, was awarded a Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

When Mr. Godinez returned home from the war, he decided to continue his record of public service as a letter carrier. During his 48 years in the U.S. Postal Service he rose from letter carrier to Southern California District Manager.

Mr. Godinez' belief that individual action can help build a better community is clearly illustrated by his active involvement in Santa Ana. Mr. Godinez was deeply committed to the Orange County District Boy Scouts of America and was their chairman in 1985. He served as president of the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce and was a board member of the California Regional Center Program for Handicapped and Special Needs Children in Orange County.

Mr. Godinez was a founding member of the Santa Ana League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council and served on the Board of Directors LULAC Foundation. He and the other Santa Ana LULAC members were participants and supporters in the 1948 case of *Mendez v. The Board of Education*, a monumental civil rights case ending discriminatory practices against Mexican American children in Orange County schools.

He guided our citizens through decades of change in California, both as a public servant and an activist. Our lives as Orange County residents are better for his life's work, and as his Congressional representative, I feel obligated to seek this honor on his family and community's behalf.

I believe it is only fitting to honor this man who gave so much to his community and country. I hope my colleagues will support this bill to name the Santa Ana U.S. Postal Processing Center after Hector Godinez.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE E. "SHORTY"
MCGRAW**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great Arkansan. This man served his country with intelligence, courage, and dedication, Mr. George E. "Shorty" McGraw.

Mr. McGraw was born in 1918 in Gillett, Arkansas. He worked as an auto mechanic until 1941, when he enlisted into the military. Mr. McGraw went on to graduate from Air Mechanic School and Flight Engineer School. He later served overseas with the Twentieth Air Force, 6th Bomb Group. On July 20, 1945, while flying his 33rd mission, Mr. McGraw was shot down and wounded. He was captured, beaten, and taken as a prisoner of war until his release on his 27th birthday. Mr. McGraw later attended Navigator Training School. He eventually retired as a Captain in 1961 with a total of 10,000 flying hours over his twenty years of service.

George E. "Shorty" McGraw is not only a wonderful citizen, neighbor and friend, he is a brother, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He is the heart and soul of his community. Captain McGraw was recently bestowed with a Purple Heart for his selfless service of his country. His devotion and love for his country never diminished. Captain McGraw serves as an inspiration to all.

A DIPLOMAT'S DIPLOMAT
RETURNS HOME**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, in a few days, Mr. Pat Hennessy, the Political Counselor at the Irish Embassy here in Washington, returns home for service in his government's Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). The DFA's gain will be our loss here in America at a critical point in Irish history.

Pat is known to many of us in the Congress, on both sides of the aisle, as a diplomat's diplomat. He previously served with distinction in the Irish Consulate in New York City before his tenure at the Irish Embassy here in Washington. In New York, he got to know and worked closely with the large Irish American community and the many friends of Ireland in America's largest and greatest city. He understands our nation and people well.

Pat has worked tirelessly for lasting peace and justice in the north of Ireland during his service in the U.S. He has also helped to advance greater U.S.-Irish relations in many areas, whether cultural, economic or otherwise.

During an important transition to Republican control of the House and new congressional leadership in the cause of lasting peace and justice in Ireland and improved U.S.-Irish relations, Pat did not miss a beat. He treated all of those many friends of Ireland equally and fairly.

In 1997, then-Speaker Newt Gingrich reinstituted the long dormant Irish American

interparliamentary exchange. Pat has played a vital role in fostering and improving these parliamentary exchanges since then.

Our sessions on both sides of the Atlantic since 1997 have served to further the bonds of friendship and understanding between the Congress and the Dail, the Irish Parliament, in Dublin. They increased interest in the Congress on events in Ireland, whether in the north, or the Republic in the south with its booming economy and many American firms' vast investment in the "Celtic Tiger."

The success of these legislative exchange programs is in no small part due to Pat's efforts and the growing and expanding U.S.-Ireland links in so many areas of common interest and support. We wish Pat and his wife Pauline and their family much happiness and success as he returns to Ireland.

Our door will always be open when Pat decides to return to America, whenever or in whatever capacity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday July 15, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 302. If I had been present, I would have voted "nay" on this amendment.

THEATER HIGH ALTITUDE AREA
DEFENSE**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends this editorial from the July 15, 1999, Norfolk Daily News to his colleagues regarding the need for development of the Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) in light of recent successful tests and North Korea's intention to launch a long range missile capable of reaching Alaska or Hawaii.

IT CAN BE DONE—FIRST "HIT" OF MISSILE INTERCEPT SYSTEM AN INDICATION THE TECHNOLOGY DOES WORK

In hindsight, it would appear that the media gave too little coverage to a report several weeks ago that had U.S. intelligence sources confirming that North Korea is preparing a late-summer launch of its Taepo Dong 2 missile, an ICBM capable of reaching Alaska or Hawaii. This will make North Korea one of only a few countries above to strike U.S. soil with long-range missiles.

But what should be given even bigger coverage is the news that the U.S. Army's new anti-missile system successfully intercepted a target ballistic missile launched 120 miles away in a test that was conducted last month.

Without using an explosive warhead, the interceptor destroyed the incoming missile by crashing into it at an altitude of almost 60 miles. What's called the Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) is designed, however, to defeat intermediate-range missiles. That means it will not be able to stop North Korea's Taepo Dong 2. But it proves that "hit-to-kill" technology can work,